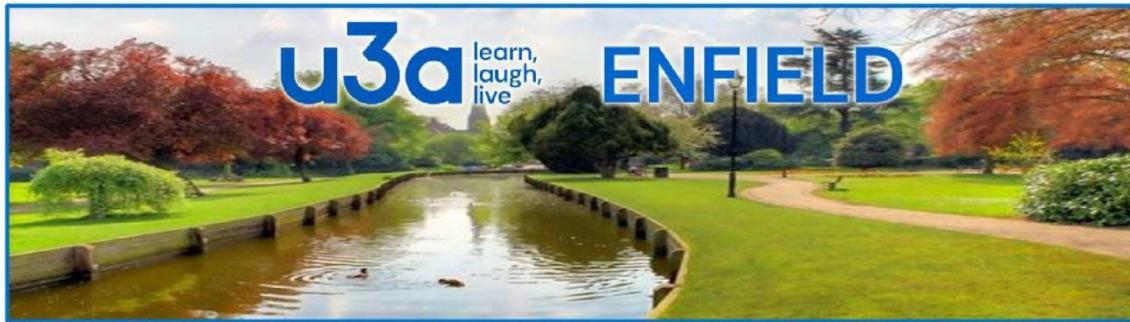




July 2026

Newsletter No.117



“A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken.”

by James Dent (American author and sportswriter)

EDITORS' NOTES

Chris Burnikell has retired from editing the newsletter and we have taken over the role. We hope to do as good a job as Chris and would like to thank her for all her hard work over the past years.

If there is anything that members would like to see in the newsletter or if anyone wants to contribute an article, please get in touch by sending an email to enfieldu3anewsletter@gmail.com.

Ann Geddes & Yvonne Kidd

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The past few months have been another busy and enjoyable period for Enfield u3a. Our groups continue to flourish, with members taking part in a wide range of learning, social, and leisure activities.

Thank you to our group leaders, committee members, and volunteers whose hard work keeps everything running so smoothly.

It has been particularly pleasing to welcome new members and see existing members continuing to make the most of all that u3a has to offer. Our monthly meetings, special events, and outings have provided plenty of opportunities to learn, share experiences, and make new friends.

As we move into summer, I hope everyone enjoys the warmer weather and takes advantage of the many activities, walks, visits, and social events planned over the coming months.

Whether you are staying local or travelling further afield, I wish you a happy, healthy, and enjoyable summer.

Thank you for your continued support of Enfield u3a.

Michael Witter

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (continued)

After four rewarding years as Chairperson of Enfield u3a, I have decided that the time is right for me to step down from the role. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve our organisation and to work alongside such a dedicated and enthusiastic committee, volunteers, and members.

Together, we have faced challenges, embraced opportunities, and continued to develop and strengthen Enfield u3a for the benefit of all our members.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the committee for their commitment, wisdom, and support throughout my tenure. My gratitude also goes to our volunteers, whose hard work behind the scenes makes so much of what we do possible.

Most importantly, I thank our members for their encouragement, participation, and friendship, which are at the heart of everything we achieve.

The success of Enfield u3a is built on the willingness of people to contribute their time, talents, and enthusiasm.

I am proud of what we have accomplished together and grateful for the support I have received over the past four years.

Although I am stepping down as Chairperson, I remain confident that Enfield u3a will continue to thrive and grow under new leadership. I wish the incoming Chair and committee every success for the future.

Thank you all for making my time as Chairperson such a memorable and rewarding experience.

Michael Witter

FORTHCOMING MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly meetings are held at the Revival Christian Church, 47 London Road, Enfield EN2 6DS on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Visitors are welcome to attend up to two meetings (payment £2 per meeting). Doors open at 1.30pm when tea will be served. Meetings start at 2.30pm prompt.

8th July

Hitchcock - The Hollywood Years by Gary Lewis

In 1939 Alfred Hitchcock left England for the lure of Hollywood and over the next 36 years he directed 36 films. Find out about the Oscar nominations he received and the leading ladies he worked with. You will also hear about the unmade final movie due to star Sean Connery, and the day Alfred Hitchcock was finally knighted in January 1980.

12th August

Champagne Breakfasts and Flying Pigs by Neil Hanson

Neil is well known for his humorous talks "Inn and Out at the Top" (about his time running Britain's highest inn) and "The Ghostwriter" (about his day job writing other people's books for them). This talk draws on many more curious characters and tales of the surprising use for false teeth, how to flog a dead horse and how to survive on a diet of beer and pot noodles.

9th September

The Beatles Story Part 1 (1962 - 1965) by Martin Orkin

A fascinating talk about the early years of The Beatles and how they got started on the road to amazing success! Martin will discuss this wonderful group who made so many fantastic recordings during the era of Beatlemania. We will hear snippets of many early Beatles hits as Martin tells their story.

14th October

Annual General Meeting, followed by a talk by **Enfield Chase Rotary Club** on the work they do in the Borough.

u3a week
19th-27th September 2026



GROUPS' REPORT

Our Enfield u3a is looking very healthy at the moment. We currently have 40 groups on various subjects from Art to Play Reading, Discussion to Outings and Knitting & Crochet to Games. I am sure there is something for everyone.

Take another look at the list at the back of this magazine as new groups are starting all the time.

Some groups that are full now have second groups started on the same subject, so if you wanted to join something and were told it was full, it's worth checking the list as there may be another group on the same subject.

Two new groups started in June: Rummikub 2 and Discussion 2.

Genealogy 2 will be starting soon, once the date and time has been agreed with Enfield Library.

If you give me your details to join a new group that isn't yet up and running, and later decide you no longer wish to join, please let me know. It becomes difficult to organise new groups when I believe we have enough interested members, only to find that emails go unanswered when I try to get things started. I understand that circumstances change and there may be genuine reasons, but a quick message to update me would be greatly appreciated.

We have had to temporarily suspend the **Singing Group** group as we need a pianist. Do you or someone you know play the piano/keyboard and could help us out for two hours on the 2nd Tuesday of the month?

Please contact me if you are interested in joining any of the groups, or if you know of a pianist who would be willing to play for the Singing group.

Email: susansloggett.10@outlook.com or mobile: 07983 475731.

Sue Sloggett

OUTING TO THE MUSEUM OF BRANDS

The group made their way to Ladbroke Grove station, then a short walk to the Museum of Brands. We started with a talk about the Museum's collection. In 1963 a 16-year boy Robert Opie saved a Munchies wrapper which started his passion for collecting packaging of all types. Now in his late seventies he has a collection of 200,000 items, of which 17,000 are on display in the museum.



You walk through the meandering "Tunnel" with glass cabinets from floor to ceiling on both sides. They are filled with every type of packaging: tins, tubes, boxes from every brand you can think of and more, plus papers, magazines, toys and games: many things from the Victorian era to the seventies.

There was a large display of televisions and radios. It was absolutely amazing. All we kept hearing was "my parents had one of those" or "I had one of those". There was even a chemist from the 1950s, also things from jubilees, coronations and both World Wars. It really was a walk down memory lane.

There was a nice cafe where we all had lunch and a memorable garden to honour the Lighthouse Aids Centre that was previously on this site, famously visited by Lady Diana to meet the sufferers.

Prior to the Museum of Brands and the Lighthouse Aids Centre, there was an infant school on this site; I attended that school from 1949 to 1955.

A very successful trip, thank you Gaynor.

John Glassberg

SOCIAL GROUP

We meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Christ Church, Chase Side, Enfield from 2pm until 4pm, with a break for tea/coffee and biscuits. There is an entrance fee of £3 which pays for the hall and the speakers.

The programme is:

- July 22nd - Paul Martin: Clocks, Watches and Heirlooms. You are invited to bring something along and he will talk about it.
- August 26th - Cards and Games
- September 23rd - Barnet Ukulele band
- October 28th - Cards and Games
- November 25th - Christmas Party

There is no meeting in December.

Jean Poyser and John Glassberg

WEST END THEATRE: MY NEIGHBOUR TOTORO

Twenty of us went to see MY NEIGHBOUR TOTORO at Gillian Lynne theatre, Drury Lane on 11th June. I had forgotten what a big, modern theatre this is. Our seats were to the extreme right of the stage; they were very good seats and we had a clear, close up view of the stage.

Ask anyone how this show was and they will say very, very different. It was the story of two little Japanese girls and their father who moved from Tokyo to the countryside to be nearer to their mother, who was sick in hospital. They encountered folklore creatures in the forest near their ramshackle home. The puppets, including Totoro, dominated the stage.

Basically, this is a puppet show on a big scale aimed at children but also enjoyable for those adults still in touch with the wonder and magic of childhood. All around me people were calling it "sweet" and "charming". The puppeteers, all in black, took many a well-earned bow. I think all who went enjoyed it and came out with a feel-good impression and smile on their faces.

Gaynor Green

WEST END THEATRE: INTO THE WOODS

It's easy to understand why this revival of INTO THE WOODS was nominated for eleven Olivier awards. Stephen Sondheim's difficult music is performed brilliantly by a cast of stars where each one is given the chance to shine. Equally impressive are the medieval-style costumes and creepy woodland setting. Although portraying familiar characters from childhood fairy tales, this is no pantomime version. We are reminded that the themes of Grimm's tales were Death, Grief and Violence. All of these are portrayed with a mixture of humour and pathos.

The wicked witch has inflicted a curse of infertility on the Baker and his wife for sins committed by the Baker's father. To break the curse, they must bring her Jack of the Beanstalk's beloved white cow, Red Riding Hood's red cape, Rapunzel's hair and Cinderella's slipper.

Red Riding Hood is feisty - swallowed but regurgitated from the Wolf who is then killed and skinned by her to provide her with a fur cape. An ultra-feminine Jack is forced to sell his beloved white cow for five beans to the mournful Baker and his wife but successfully kills the Giant at the top of the beanstalk; Rapunzel's long hair is plaited into a ladder for her prince to climb; Cinderella draws her ballgown from a tree trunk and marries her prince.

After the happy ending of the first act, success is mixed with pathos in the second. Cinderella yearns for her simpler life among the woods. Her prince and Rapunzel's prince team up, tongue in cheek, to perform a magnificent over-dramatic duet, Agony, on the difficulty of remaining faithful. Parents and grandmother, killed off by a vengeful wife of the Giant, leave children to live without them. The Baker struggles with single parenthood.



Among the stellar cast shining above them all, is Kate Fleetwood as the wicked witch, weaving her way through all the scenes with a commanding presence whether singing or speaking.

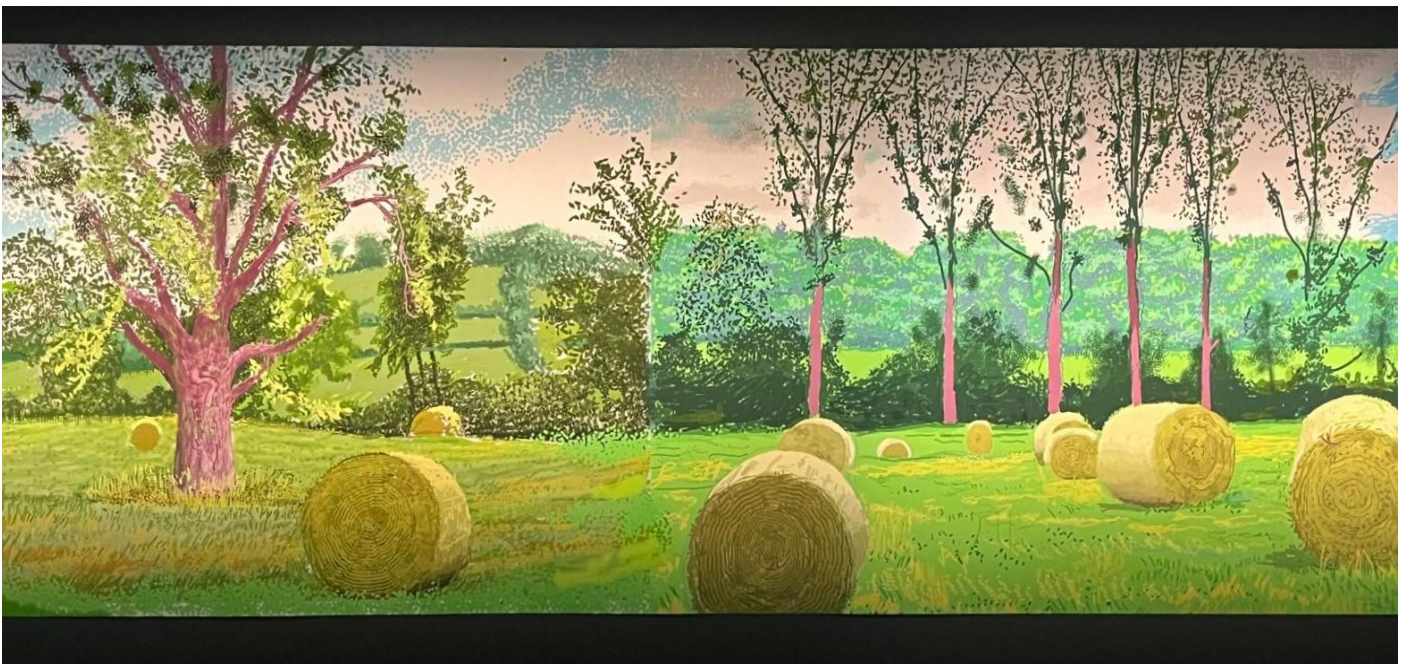
Thanks to Gaynor for organising our visit to this show, well worth its standing ovation from the audience.

Joy Lewis

FREEDOM PASS TRIPS

The Freedom Pass group's April visit was to the new V&A museum in Stratford, East London. We started off in the rather lovely ground floor cafe and then continued to the two galleries housing a range of objects from the V&A's vast collections. The rooftop terrace has fantastic views across London and there was a paid for exhibition on black music which some of the group visited and enjoyed.

Our May visit was to the Serpentine Galleries in Kensington Gardens on a very hot day towards the end of the month. This was our second David Hockney exhibition of the year and this one focussed on a Year in Normandie with the changing seasons illustrated around the walls of the gallery, inspired by the Bayeux tapestry.



There was also an exhibition of Cicely Brown's work based on actual locations in Kensington Gardens.

I seem to be running out of days in June so this month's visit may well end up being at the beginning of July. I have plans to try Eltham Palace again. Fingers crossed for a better outcome this time.

Jacqui Hall

VISITING GARDENS

In May, we travelled to Sloane Square to see "Chelsea in Bloom". No, not RHS Chelsea Flower Show, but London's largest free flower festival. The theme this year was "Out of This World".

More than 100 shops, restaurants, pubs and hotels along the King's Road and nearby Duke of York Square unveiled spectacular floral displays inspired by space travel, astrology and spiritual symbolism.

Fortunately, the weather stayed dry and we enjoyed looking at many creative displays of fresh flowers, including an enormous floral globe in honour of Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday.



Thanks, Stephanie, for arranging such an interesting visit.

Yvonne Kidd

POETRY

Erica Zimmermann (leader of Enfield u3a's Poetry group) told us that members have bonded over their love of poetry. They meet in each other's homes, hence the small group. Each member brings along two poems, one from a chosen poet and one on a given theme. Members can choose to write their own poems or share one from another author.

Please contact Sue Sloggett to find out if there's space in this group. If the group is full, Sue will put your name down on a waiting list and hopefully Poetry Group 2 will be formed.

susansloggett.10@outlook.com 07983 475731

MEMORIES

I close my eyes and I am 7

I close my eyes and I can hear
the delighted whoops and squeals of pleasure from children on the ground,
the toot-toot of the paddle steamer coming up from Plymouth Sound,
the crackle of wood and fireworks blazing from the bonfire mound
and the rush of crashing water as it cascaded in the background.

I close my eyes and I can smell
the sharpness of winter frosts, of sheet black ice and rime
the smokiness of bonfires recalling Guy Fawkes' crime
the dankness of long-forgotten neglected ruins of a bygone industrial time
the sludgy mud of a flood invading the village leaving nought but grime.

I close my eyes and I can taste
the tartness of crab apples and sweet blackberries from when we were young
the soft buttery fire baked potatoes cooking slowly while songs were sung
old Camp coffee bottles filled with lemonade so sharp it stung
the rustiness of blood in my mouth after falling and biting my tongue.

I close my eyes and I can see
the iridescent blue of a kingfisher scanning the canal for its prey
the butterflies that fluttered by on each and every summer's day
the dappled shade of beech trees that illuminated our way
the blossom on the hawthorn which bloomed in May.

I close my eyes and I can feel
the pain of falling from the topmost bough when trying to reach the sun
the soreness of scraped knees and elbows from roller skating fun
the cold harshness of a winter's night on the outside toilet run
the unbridled childish joy and being free once all our chores were done.

I close my eyes and I remember

By Erica Zimmermann
(Group Leader, Poetry)

ENFIELD u3a QUIZ

On Monday 1st June, several members met at the Baptist Church for a social afternoon quizzing. It was a pleasant afternoon with refreshments

There were some tough questions: do you know what part of the body translates as "little mouse"? Well one team did! After seven rounds and a table round, the team who had led from the start clinched the top spot.

Many thanks to Chris Truran for running the quiz, to Cheri for providing refreshments and Gill and the committee for all their input.



BEYOND ENFIELD u3a: GETAWAY WITH THE u3a

The Third Age Trust has teamed up with The UK Holiday Group to provide a range of bespoke holidays exclusive to u3a members and their friends. These trips are designed to create opportunities for members to come together from across the UK to learn, discover and explore.

To find out more about the collection of unique itineraries, simply visit the website: www.justforgroups.com/u3a-getaways



Tickets £4.50
*Complimentary hot drinks
and biscuits with every ticket*

Our local Cineworld on Southbury Road has re-introduced these sessions exclusively for customers aged 60 and over. They take place on Wednesdays at 11.30am.

CINE SENIORS is discontinued during the school holidays; it will resume in September.

Tickets cost £4.50 each and the price includes a complimentary hot drink and a biscuit. The forthcoming films are:

- Wednesday 8th July - **THE MAGIC FARAWAY TREE**: A 2026 live-action fantasy film which adapts the beloved children's book series by Enid Blyton, transporting a modern family to the English countryside where the children discover a magical tree with eccentric residents. They are transported to fantastical lands, rekindling their family bond through adventures.
- Wednesday 15th July - **FUZE**: London undergoes a citywide evacuation when an unexploded World War II bomb is unearthed at a busy construction site. Amid the escalating tension and chaos, a daring criminal operation is set in motion - one that uses the evacuation as a cover for a meticulously planned bank heist. As authorities race against time to contain the crisis, alliances blur and moral boundaries are crossed.

Historical snippet:

England's first purpose-built cinema, the Electric Cinema in Birmingham, opened on 27 December 1909. More than 2,000 people visited on its opening day, many experiencing moving pictures for the very first time.

ENFIELD u3a GROUPS, JUNE 2026

Subject	Group Leader	Day/Time	Spaces/Full
Art	Eileen Flack	1st Monday 1.30pm	Full
Art Appreciation 1	Chris Abbott	1st Wednesday 10.30am	Full
Art Appreciation 2	Gill Long	3rd Thursday 2pm	Full
Art Galleries/Museums	Pat Bishop	4th Wednesday	Full
Backgammon	Michael Witter	3rd Thursday 10am	Spaces
Book Club 1	Soo Hynes	3rd Monday 2.30pm	Full
Book Club 2	Jenny Kirby	3rd Monday 2pm	Spaces
Book Club 3	Chris Burnikell	1st Thursday 10.15am	Full
Canasta	Dee Patterson	4th Thursday & 3rd Monday 2pm	Spaces
Craft	Chris Burnikell	2nd Friday 10.30am	Spaces
Chess	Ramesh Kapoor	1st & 3rd Wednesday 3pm	Spaces
Creative Writing	Mary Brown	Every Tuesday 2.30pm	Spaces
Cribbage	Joan Williams	1st Thursday 2pm	Spaces
Discussion Group	Ann Pretty	3rd Friday 10.30am	Spaces
Discussion Group 2	Julie Bungey	3rd Tuesday 11am	Spaces
Freedom Pass Trips	Jacqui Hall	As arranged and notified	Full
French Intermediate/ Advanced	Nan Hutchings	Alternate Tuesdays 2.30pm	Full
Games/Cards	Gaynor Green	3rd Thursday 2pm	Spaces
Garden Visits	Stephanie Milverton	3rd Thursday 2pm	Spaces
Genealogy	Jackie Butcher	3rd Friday 2pm	Full
History 1	Hadi Samsami	2nd Monday 2pm	Spaces
History 2	Cheri Ford	1st and 3rd Thursdays 2pm	Spaces
Italian for Beginners	Lesley Mansbridge	Every 2 weeks on a Tuesday 11am	Full
Knitting & Crochet	Anna Davey	Last Thursday 10am	Full
Mahjong	Maggie Hook	2nd & 4th Monday 2pm	Full
Moving Image Club	Michael Witter	1st Wednesday 2pm	Full
Outings	Gaynor Green	As and when	Spaces
Photography	Sue Bell	Last Tuesday 10am	Spaces
Play Reading	Marianne Lanjri	2nd Thursday 12pm	Full
Play Reading 2	Anna Macer	3rd Monday 2pm	Spaces
Poetry	Erica Zimmerman	4th Wednesday 2pm	Full
Pub Quiz	Gill Fletcher	As and when	Full
Rummikub	Maggie Hook	1st Friday 2pm	Full
Rummikub 2	Vacant	1st Friday 1pm	Spaces
Scrabble 2	Mike Eppel	1st Wednesday 2.30pm	Full
Social Group	Jean Poyser/John Glassberg	4th Wednesday 2pm	Spaces
Spanish	Ann Kent	Fridays 10.30am	Spaces
Sunday Lunch Group	Gill Fletcher	3rd Sunday	Full
Theatre Visits	Gaynor Green	As and when	Spaces
Walking Group	Gill Fletcher	2nd Thursday	Spaces

QUICK CALENDAR OF GROUPS	
Mondays	pm: Book Club 1, Book Club 2, Art, History 1, Mahjong, Canasta, Play Reading 2
Tuesdays	am: Photography, Italian for Beginners 1, Discussion 2
	pm: Creative Writing, French Intermediate/Advanced, Garden Visits, History 2
Wednesdays	am: Art Appreciation 1, Art Galleries/Museums
	pm: Social Group, Scrabble 2, Chess, Moving Images, Poetry
Thursdays	am: Walks, Book Club 3, Knitting & crochet
	pm: History 2, Art Appreciation 2, Games/Cards, Canasta, Play Reading 1, Cribbage
Fridays	am: Discussion 1, Spanish, Craft
	pm: Genealogy, Rummikub 1, Rummikub 2
Sundays	Sunday lunch group
As arranged and notified	Theatre Trips, Outings, Art Galleries/Museums, Pub Quiz

CONTACTS

Enfield u3a website: www.enfield.u3asite.uk

Registered Charity No. 1070139

Third Age Trust website: www.u3a.org.uk

London Region website: <https://lru3a.u3asite.uk>

LOCAL CONTACTS

Group Information: Sue Sloggett 07983 475731 susansloggett.10@outlook.com

Treasurer: Jean Poyser Jeanpoyser242@gmail.com

Beacon Administrator: Maggie Hook maggiehook@hotmail.co.uk

General Enquiries: 07756 239378

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 - FREE coaching available
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